documents was in vogue, people enjoyed greater security in regard to registered documents, as would be evident from the following circumstances.

Copies presented by parties were carefully compared with original documents before acceptance, and then with the copies in the office register, and a third time with the index registers before they were sent to the central records office. That three-fold scrutiny also served to bring to light irregularities in procedure and in the realisation of stamp duty and registration fees. Mistakes in the names of parties, house names, description of properties, etc. could also be detected then and there. Attempts to make corrections in the documents either in the office register of documents or in the original documents themselves were effectively prevented by the existence of duplicate copies in the central records office which also bore the signature of the parties. On the other hand, under the present system, the Member contended that there was no possibility of replacing the records in the event of any accident happening to the registry office with the consequent destruction of records like the one that recently occurred in Malabar.

A reference to the index registers maintained under the present system was not helpful in clearing the doubts that might arise in respect of documents subsequent to their registry, since the half-yearly inspection of Sub-Registry offices by the District Registrars was perfunctory except in the matter of the examination of account books and certain office records such as those relating to chitties, and the defects and irregularities relating to registered documents remained undetected. Under the old system when duplicate copies were preserved and there was the three-fold verification mentioned above, many such defects and irregularities were actually brought to light and removed. Duplicate copies were now dispensed with under the baseless belief that such defects would not occur. In the circumstances, the Member prayed that the old system of presenting duplicate copies for registration might be re-introduced. He suggested that, by fixing the value of the copying sheets for the duplicates at 2 or 3 *chackrams* per sheet, Government might also derive a revenue of about Rs. 5,000 per annum.

Finally, the Member submitted that the duplicate copies of the documents registered during the period from 1043 to 1075 should not be destroyed as in those years it was not the practice to note in the office copies the corrections and erasures in the originals.

Dewan's reply.—In the opinion of the present Director of Registration, a second copy of these documents is not necessary. A single copy is enough and that is being preseved in the Sub-Registry Office. There is no room for storing the accumulated copies even under the present one-copy system, and if two copies are insisted on, the result will be much more unsatisfactory.

38. Delays in the Revenue, Judicial and Registration Offices for want of timely supervision.

Mr. Kanakku Govindan Achuthan (Member, Parur Taluk) in ventilating the grievances of the litigant public, dwelt at length on the delay in the disposal of cases in courts and revenue offices. Issues in contested suits were not settled in civil courts even after three years, and the disposal of such suits was inordinately delayed by unnecessary adjournments owing to the want of proper supervision of the lower courts by the High Court. He also referred to the hardships which the litigant public experienced on account of certain practical difficulties in the execution of decrees and observed that litigation had become so costly and troublesome that parties in most cases effected compromises even at a loss, rather than resort to the law courts. The Member then stated that the present system of supervision of the lower courts by the High Court was neither effective nor satisfactory, as it was done during vacation and in the absence of the contesting parties. He, therefore, requested that arrangements might be made for the speedy disposal of cases and for the more efficient supervision of the lower courts.

The Member next alluded to the present practice of Magistrates, especially the Division First Class Magistrate at Perumpavur, holding courts till late in the evening, and prayed that the said practice might be discontinued.

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In regard to registration of documents at private residences, the Member said that, though certain persons, by reason of physical infirmity or exemption granted by the Government, were entitled to get the registering officers to attend at their residence for the purpose of accepting or recording the admission of the execution of documents, other persons, not so entitled, though residing with the applicants were being compelled to go to the Sub-Registry office for recording their admissions in respect of those very documents. Further, he said that if the day on which the application for attendance at a private residence was made happened to be a holiday, registration could, according to the present Rules, be completed only on the next working day. The Member, therefore, suggested that the registering officers might, in the course of their attendence at a private residence, be permitted to accept for registration the documents of all the persons residing there irrespective of sex or status.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's observations in regard to registration at private residence will be looked into.

With regard to the Perumpavur Magistrate holding court till late in the evening, the District Magistrate will be asked to instruct that Magistrate to close his court at the normal hour laid down by the rules.

39. Transfer of civil decrees direct from the Devicolam Munsiff's Court to the British Indian Courts.

Mr. A. J. Wright (Member, Kannan Devan Planters' Association) stated that Mr. G. W. Cole had already requested at the eighteenth session of the Assembly that the Devicolam District Munsiff's Court might be empowered to transfer civil decrees direct to British Indian Courts instead of through the Parur District Court, as was the present procedure, since the latter procedure caused inordinate delay, thereby enabling judgment debtors to remove their funds and properties beyond the jurisdiction of the Court. He said that his object in renewing the representation was to ascertain how the matter stood at present.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Cole brought this matter up at the last session of the Assembly. The following is what I find in the Notification of the Government of India, dated the 10th December, 1885, on the subject.

"The decrees of the Courts of the Travancore State may be executed in British India as if they had been made by the Courts in British India; but when the decree sent to a court in British India for execution is a decree of the court of a Munsiff, the documents mentioned in Section 224 of the Code of Civil Procedure should bear the countersignature of the Judge of the Zillah Court to which the court of the Munsiff is subordinate".

I am sorry we cannot modify this.

Member.—I understand the position.

40. Difficulties experienced by the public in civil courts and the remedies therefor.

Mr. Narayanaru Krishnaru (Member, Jenmi, Trivandrum Division) represented the difficulties experienced by the public in civil courts. He suggested that the plaintiffs might be asked to file in court a true copy of the plaint so that it might be given to the defendants, that the rule regarding the attestation of summonses issued to defendants by the proverthicars of the *pakuthies* in which they resided might be strictly enforced, and that the defendants might be allowed sufficient time to file their written statements. Referring to the difficulties of defendants on whom summonses were not served sufficiently early, the Member suggested that the courts might be directed to grant one or two adjournments with a view to facilitate the filing of written statements. He then referred to the delays in the framing of issues and the subsequent haste to close the cases, which resulted in insufficient time being allowed to the parties to let in evidence and in the shabby disposal of long-pending cases. Great were the hardships to which parties and witnesses were being put, owing to the posting of too many cases for a single day and the consequent necessity to send away witnesses without examination. He suggested that the courts might be directed to send away the witnesses who were not likely to be examined, after marking their attendance. In regard to commission fees, the

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